

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 00268 070743Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O R 061450Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4466
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
A/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 0525
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00268

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, EGEN, RH, GW
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND

REF: BONN 21753

1. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA OFFICE
IN THE FONOFF (VON SCHACKY) GAVE US A READOUT ON INITIAL
FRG REACTION TO ZIMBABWE FUND PROPOSALS PRESENTED TO
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FRG BY DCM ON DECEMBER 22. ACCORDING TO VON SCHACKY,
REACTION OF FONOFF WAS VERY POSITIVE. NEVERTHELESS,
IN VIEW OF VERY TIGHT BUDGET SITUATION, HE BELIEVES IT
WILL BE DIFFICULT TO PRY LOOSE THE NECESSARY FUNDS.

2. THE FIRST INTER-MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF THE
FUND IS SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 6 AND VON SCHACKY IS SURE NO

CONSENSUS WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THAT MEETING. IN HIS VIEW, THE DECISION WILL EVENTUALLY BE TAKEN ON A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL AFTER THE CONCERNED MINISTRIES HAVE HAD FULL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

3. ACCORDING TO VON SCHACKY, THE FRG PROBLEMS WITH THE FUND AT THIS STAGE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. PRESENT UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDS -- THIS CAN BE OVERCOME BY APPROPRIATE POLITICAL DECISIONS.

B. PRECEDENT THE FUND WOULD ESTABLISH -- THE 25,000 ETHNIC GERMANS LIVING IN NAMIBIA MAKE THAT AREA OF SOUTHERN AFRICA THE PRIMARY CONCERN FOR THE FRG. PRESENT DOMESTIC POLITICAL REALITIES DICTATE THAT THE FRG COULD NOT DO LESS FOR NAMIBIA THAN IT DOES FOR ZIMBABWE. VON SCHACKY SAID HE DOUBTED WHETHER THE FRG WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUCH AN AFRICA FUND TWICE.

C. CONCERN THAT FUND MIGHT BE REJECTED BY INTERESTED BLACK GROUPS -- OTHER MINISTRIES MAY RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER NATIONALIST GROUPS REPRESENTED IN GENEVA MIGHT NOT REJECT THE FUND EVEN IF REALIZED. VON SCHACKY DOES NOT BELIEVE ANY REJECTION IS LIKELY, BUT HE VIEWS AS POTENTIAL WEAKNESS THE FACT THAT DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING PROPOSAL IS NOT CLEAR ON WHETHER THESE GROUPS HAD GIVEN THEIR TACIT APPROVAL OR NOT. HE FEARS THAT OTHER MINISTRIES WILL LATCH ON CONFIDENTIAL

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TO THIS POINT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON HOW WE MIGHT REPLY TO CONCERN RAISED PARA 3C ABOVE.

5. COMMENT: VON SCHACKY EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE FRG IS ANXIOUS TO SEE THE WESTERN INITIATIVE SUCCEED AND WOULD EVENTUALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE FUND, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT UP TO THE 10 PERCENT LEVEL REQUESTED. THE MAJOR BUGABOO IS FACT THAT WHATEVER THE FRG DOES FOR ZIMBABWE IT WILL BE PRESSURED TO DO FOR NAMIBIA ALSO. THE CONCEPT OF A ZIMBABWE FUND WILL BE LINKED TO THE DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE ETHNIC GERMANS IN NAMIBIA -- FRG POLICY THUS FAR HAS BEEN ONE OF ENCOURAGING THEM TO REMAIN AND ADAPT TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE. (SEE REFTTEL) A DECISION ON PARTICIPATION, THEREFORE, WILL HAVE TO TAKE THESE FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT AND PROBABLY TAKE SOME TIME IN THE MAKING. STOESEL

NOTE: MSG UPGRADED TO EXDIS PER STATE 003376

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